

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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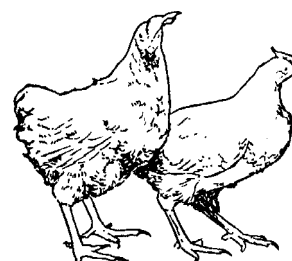
CHICKENS & EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 72 million eggs during January 2004, of which 71 million were table eggs and 1 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 74.5 percent. The average number of layers on hand during January 2004 was 3,296,000. On February 1, 2004 9.5 percent of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 14.0 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

United States egg production totaled 7.38 billion during January 2004, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.32 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2004 averaged 338 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,184 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2003.

CONTENTS

Agricultural Prices
Chickens & Eggs
Crop Values
Farms & Land in Farms
April Calendar



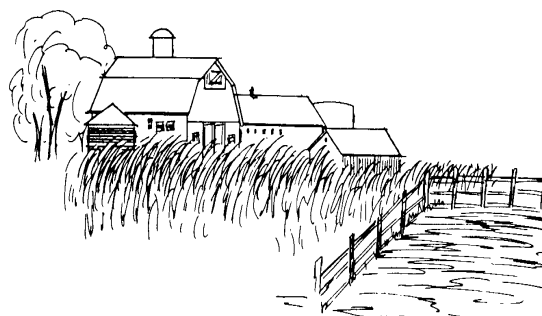
Eggs and Layers: January 2003 and 2004¹

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
Eggs Produced During January	<i>Million</i>		<i>Percent</i>
U.S.	7,390	7,380	100
Maryland	80	72	90
Layers, Average Number During January	<i>Thousand</i>		
U.S.	340,910	337,892	99
Maryland	3,296	3,117	95
Eggs/100 Layers During January	<i>Number</i>		
U.S.	2,168	2,184	101
Maryland	2,427	2,310	95

¹ Revised.

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

In 2003, the number of farms in Maryland fell to 12,100, a drop of 100 farms from the previous year. Total land in Maryland farms continued to decline as well, to a record low of 2.06 million acres. This is 1 percent or 20,000 acres below 2002. The average size of a farm in Maryland was 170 acres in 2003, comparable to a year ago. Nearly 64 percent of the total farms in Maryland are considered small farms, categorized as operations with a value of sales of less than \$10,000. The numbers of small farms increased over 2003 however, the number of farms with a value of sales of \$10,000 and greater declined over 6 percent from 2002. The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.



NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS: MARYLAND AND UNITED STATES, 1998-2003

STATE	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of Farms						
Maryland	12,500	12,400	12,400	12,300	12,200	12,100
United States	2,192,330	2,187,280	2,166,780	2,148,630	2,135,360	2,126,860
Land in Farms						
<i>1,000 acres</i>						
Maryland	2,150	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,080	2,060
United States	952,080	948,460	945,080	942,070	940,300	938,750

CROP VALUES

The 2003 market year average prices for soybeans and barley were up significantly from 2002 in Maryland. The soybean MYA price was \$7.25 per bushel, up 27 percent from the 2002 MYA of \$5.70. Barley was up 40 cents to \$1.80 per bushel from 2002. The average price for corn for grain declined 10 cents from 2002 to \$2.75 per bushel. The average price for wheat remained unchanged at \$3.15 per bushel. The MYA price for tobacco climbed 11 percent from 2002 to \$1.65 per pound.

Alfalfa hay prices declined \$19 per ton to an average of \$143 per ton. Other hay remained unchanged from 2002 at \$153 per ton. Potato prices decreased 50 cents to \$8.80 per hundredweight.



PRICE AND VALUE OF PRODUCTION, MAJOR CROPS, MARYLAND

CROPS	AVERAGE PRICE			VALUE OF PRODUCTION		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
<i>Dollars per Bushel</i>				<i>1,000 Dollars</i>		
Corn for Grain	2.18	2.85	2.75	121,557	92,055	138,683
Soybeans	4.20	5.70	7.25	84,357	61,617	115,348
Wheat	2.45	3.15	3.15	27,011	37,422	16,900
Barley	1.30	1.40	1.80	4,973	4,707	3,899
<i>Dollars per Ton</i>				<i>1,000 Dollars</i>		
Alfalfa Hay	145.00	162.00	143.00	29,290	25,272	21,307
Other Hay	128.00	153.00	153.00	40,960	53,856	59,670
<i>Dollars per Lb</i>				<i>1,000 Dollars</i>		
Tobacco	1.680	1.480	1.650	5,544	3,522	3,589
<i>Dollars per Hundred Pounds</i>				<i>1,000 Dollars</i>		
Potatoes	8.50	9.30	8.80	9,988	10,928	9,715

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Maryland small grain prices were up from January with winter wheat up 12 cents and barley up 13 cents. Corn was up 12 cents while soybeans dropped 10 cents. Hay was up \$4.00 from January. All crop prices other than hay are up from February 2003.

Livestock prices for February were mixed with beef cattle prices down \$3.70 and calf prices up \$7.80. Hogs are up to \$41.10 per head.

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			Parity Price
		FEB	JAN	FEB	FEB	JAN	FEB	
		2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004 ¹	
		<i>Dollars</i>						
Wheat, Winter	BU	3.10	3.53	3.65	3.52	3.66	3.60	9.76
Corn	BU	2.83	2.92	3.04		2.39	2.55	6.56
Barley	BU	2.06	2.00	2.13	2.87	2.71	2.62	6.50
Soybeans	BU	5.79	8.04	7.94	5.55	7.34	7.99	15.40
All Hay, Baled	TON	163.00	129.00	133.00	91.40	79.30	79.90	-----
All Beef Cattle	CWT	71.90	80.40	76.70	73.90	80.90	77.80	165.00
Calves	CWT	80.00	84.70	92.50	97.20	110.00	110.00	221.00
Hogs	CWT	34.40	37.90	41.10	34.30	36.80	43.20	102.00
Chickens ²	LB	0.080	0.086	0.087	-----	---	-----	-----
Broilers	LB	0.330	0.381	0.367	0.340	0.430	0.470	-----
Turkeys, Live	LB	-----	----	----	0.345	0.349	0.350	0.993
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.535	0.922	0.897	0.433	0.806	0.745	1.64

¹ Mid-Month Forecast, Entire Month Price.

² Does not include broilers

*Revised

INDEX OF U.S. PRICES RECEIVED			
INDEX AND RATIOS	UNITED STATES 1990 - 92 =100		
	February	January	February
	2003	2004	2004
All Farm Products	99	111	113
All Crops	104	*113	115
Feed Grain & Hay	106	*105	110
Oil- Bearing Crops	100	*130	142
Fruits & Nuts	82	*85	96
All Livestock and Livestock Products	95	*110	111
Meat Animals	95	*104	104
Dairy Products	87	*101	102
Poultry and Eggs	104	133	139
Ratio ¹	77	85	87
Prices Paid Index	128	130	130

* Revised

¹ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

APRIL REPORT CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1	2 Dairy Products Prices Vegetables
5 Poultry Slaughter Dairy Products Crop Progress	6 Weather Crop Summary	7 Broiler Hatchery	8	9
12 Crop Progress	13 Weather-Crop Summary	14 Broiler Hatchery	15	16 Dairy Products Prices Cattle on Feed
19 Crop Progress	20 Weather - Crop Summary	21 Broiler Hatchery	22	23 Dairy Products Prices Chicken and Eggs Livestock Slaughter
26 Crop Progress	27 Weather - Crop Summary	28 Broiler Hatchery Dairy Products	29	30 Dairy Products Prices Agricultural Prices

Reports can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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